

CLAIMS:

- 2           1.       A method comprising:  
              transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint  
4   communication system;  
              transmitting audio with the access request; and  
6           terminating the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.
- 2           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes  
              transmitting the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.
3.       The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes  
2   transmitting the audio before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request  
              is granted.
- 2           4.       The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes  
              transmitting the audio without receiving an acknowledgement that the access request  
4   is granted.
- 2           5.       The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the audio  
              transmission serves as the access request.
- 2           6.       The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an  
              acknowledgement that the access request is granted during transmission of the audio.

2           7.       The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the denial of the  
access request from an arbitration controller.

2           8.       The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the audio to  
the broadcast link via wireless network equipment.

2           9.       The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the denial of the  
access request from a wireless communication device in the system via a wireless  
4 base station.

2           10.      The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the denial of  
the access request within a wireless communication device that presently has access  
4 to the broadcast link.

2           11.      The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the access  
request in response to actuation of a push-to-talk input medium associated with a  
4 wireless communication device.

            12.      A method comprising:  
2           receiving a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint  
communication system;  
4           receiving audio with the access request; and  
            transmitting the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is  
6 granted.

            13.      The method of claim 12, further comprising discarding the audio in  
2 the event the access request is denied.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein receiving audio includes receiving  
2 the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

15. The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting an indication  
2 that the access request is granted after receiving the audio.

16. The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting an indication  
2 that the access request is denied after receiving the audio.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising interpreting at least a  
2 portion of the audio transmission as the access request.

18. The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
2 transmitting the access request to a wireless communication device in the  
4 system; and  
receiving an indication that the access request is denied from the wireless  
6 communication device.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein transmitting the access request  
2 includes transmitting the access request to a wireless communication device that  
presently has access to the broadcast link.

20. A wireless communication device comprising:  
2 a wireless transmitter; and  
a processor that controls the transmitter to transmit a request for access to a  
4 broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system, transmit audio with

the access request, and terminate the audio transmission in the event the access  
6 request is denied.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter  
2 to transmit the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

22. The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter  
2 to transmit the audio before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is  
4 granted.

23. The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter  
2 to transmit the audio without receiving an acknowledgement that the access request  
4 is granted.

24. The device of claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the audio  
2 transmission serves as the access request.

25. The device of claim 20, wherein the transmitter transmits the audio to  
2 the broadcast link via wireless network equipment.

26. An arbitration controller for a point-to-multipoint communication  
2 system, the arbitration controller comprising a processor that receives a request for  
access to a broadcast link from a wireless communication device in a point-to-  
4 multipoint communication system, wherein the wireless communication device  
transmits audio with the request for access, the processor determining whether to  
6 grant the access request, and directing transmission of the audio via the broadcast  
link in the event the access request is granted.

27. The device of claim 26, wherein the processor directs discarding of  
2 the audio in the event the access request is denied.

28. The device of claim 26, wherein the processor directs transmission of  
2 an indication that the access request is granted or denied.

29. The device of claim 26, wherein the transmitter transmits an  
2 indication that the access request is granted or denied.

30. The device of claim 26, wherein the processor interprets at least a  
2 portion of the audio transmission as the access request.

31. The device of claim 26, wherein the processor resides within a  
2 wireless communication device in the point-to-multipoint communication system.

32. The device of claim 26, wherein the processor resides within a  
2 network server in a wide area network associated with network equipment in the  
point-to-multipoint communication system.

33. A computer-readable medium carrying instructions that cause a  
2 processor in a wireless communication device in a point-to-multipoint  
communication system to:  
4 transmit a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint  
communication system;  
6 transmit audio with the access request; and  
terminate the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.

34. A computer-readable medium carrying instructions that cause a  
2 processor in network equipment in a point-to-multipoint communication system to:  
receive a request for access to a broadcast link in the point-to-multipoint  
4 communication system;

- receive audio with the access request; and
- 6 direct transmission of the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted.